

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00854 301842Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 EB-07 INR-07  
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4521  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0854

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EG, LY, US  
SUBJ: LIBYA-US: LIBYAN POLICIES AND L-100'S

REF: STATE 149531, TRIPOLI 0853, TRIPOLI 230, TRIPOLI 264

1. A US-LIBYAN DIALOGUE IS NOT LIKELY TO RESULT IN MODIFICATION OF LIBYA'S MIDDLE EAST STANCE TO ANY GREATER EXTENT THAN QADHAFI'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS AND YUGOSLAVS HAVE ALREADY HAD A MODERATING EFFECT. I DO, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT QADHAFI MAY HAVE FOUND SOME OF HIS TERRORIST TACTICS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, AND WE MAY BE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO MODIFY HIS INVOLVEMENT.

2. IN ADDITION OUR VIEWS ON LIBYAN POLICIES ON MIDDLE EAST AND TOWARDS TERRORISM CONTAINED TRIPOLI 264 AND WHAT SECRETARIAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US OF LIBYAN POSITION (TRIPOLI 230), SEVERAL OF MY ARAB COLLEAGUES HERE TELL ME THAT PLO ACCEPTS QADHAFI'S ASSURANCES TO ARAFAT THAT LIBYA WILL NOT TRY TO BLOCK PLO GOING TO GENEVA. QADHAFI CLEARLY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT  
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GENEVA OFFERS ANY HOPE FOR ARABS. AT SAME TIME HE STANDS READY TO EXPLOIT THE FAILURE OF MEPC, WHICH HE FULLY EXPECTS, AND NO DOUBT HOPES MODERATE ARAB GOVERNMENTS WILL BE REPLACED BY MILITANT ONES MORE TO HIS TASTE AS RESULT. IN INTERIM, QADHAFI WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY LEND SOME SUPPORT TO SOME REJDCTIONISTS -- IF ONLY TO KEEP HIS HARDLINE CREDENTIALS IN ORDER.

3. LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR OR INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM IS EQUALLY THORNY. GENERAL APPROACHES TO LIBYA ON SUBJECT IMMEDIATELY LEAD TO DEFINITIVE DISPUTE. SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS AND AFRICANS THEY SAY IS NOT TERRORISM. THEY WILL ALSO ASK ABOUT US SUPPORT FOR EX-TERRORIST NOW RULING ISRAEL.

4. MOREOVER, LIBYA CLAIMS TO OPPOSE HIJACKING AND HARM TO INNOCENT PEOPLE AND STANDS READY TO DISCUSS PROBLEM IN UN. IN SUM WE DOUBT IF QADHAFI REGIME WILL EVER CLOSE DOWN PALESTINIAN/AFRICAN TRAINING FACILITIES AND SUPPORT FOR "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" IN AREA. SAME, OF COURSE, CAN BE SAID ABOUT OTHER MORE MODERATE ARAB STATES. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS CLEAR THAT LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED IN PAST YEAR OVER TERRORIST IMAGE. IN DE BOURCHGRAVE INTERVIEW (SEPT 1976) HE SUGGESTED INTELLIGENCE SERVICES SOMETIMES GET OUT OF HAND AND NEED TO BE RESTRAINED. IN PAST MONTHS OTHER LIBYAN OFFICIALS AND MEDIA STRESS DISTINCTION BETWEEN TERRORISM AND LEGITIMATE SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THUS, WE BELIEVE LIBYANS ARE SENSITIVE AND VULNERABLE ON SUBJECT. WHILE GENERAL DENUNCIATION BY US NOT LIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVE, VERY SPECIFIC, WELL-DOCUMENTED CHARGES AT HIGH LEVEL COULD HAVE SOME EFFECT.

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5. ON L-100 PROBLEM, I THINK AT MINIMUM WE SHOULD ASK LIBYANS JUST WHAT SORT OF ASSURANCES THEY CAN GIVE US THAT THESE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED TO MEET LIBYA'S RECOGNIZED NEED FOR COMMERCIAL AIR CARGO CAPACITY AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE USED FOR MILITARY TRANSPORT. UNTIL THEN, WE MUST ASSUME THAT THESE AIRCRAFT, IN ADDITION MEETING COMMERCIAL NEEDS, AT LEAST marginally ADD TO LIBYA'S MILITARY OR DISRUPTIVE CAPABILITY. ALSO, WE SHOULD NOT GRANT APPROVAL EXCEPT IN CONTEXT SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

6. LIBYANS ARE CURRENTLY EXPANDING AIRFIELD FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN SOUTHEAST, KUFRA RUNWAYS CAN CURRENTLY HANDLE 747'S, IF ASSOCIATED FACILITIES AVAILABLE. WE HEAR ANOTHER AIRFIELD IS PLANNED AT JABAL UWAYNAT, NEAR EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE BORDERS. ALSO, NEW AIRFIELD IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT GHAT, NEAR ALGERIAN BORDER. EMBOFF RECENTLY VISITED LATTER PROJECT AND WAS TOLD 4 KILOMETER LONG RUNWAY SHOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN ONE YEAR. FUEL TRANSPORT DEFICIENCIES, LIMITED ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE,

SHORTAGE TRAINED CREWS ARE ADDITIONAL FACTORS  
LIMITING USEFULNESS L-100'S FOR EITHER COMMERCIAL OR  
MILITARY USE AT THESE REMOTE AREAS OF LIBYA FOR AT  
LEAST NEXT THREE YEARS.  
CARLE

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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